

scholar and civil rights leader W.E.B. DuBois were born in the month of February. The 15th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified 132 years ago this month, giving black Americans the right to vote. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded in February in New York City. Last Friday, February 1, was the forty-second anniversary of the Greensboro Four's historic sit-in. And on February 25, 1870, this body welcomed its first black Senator, Hiram R. Revels of Mississippi.

I want to take time during this important month to celebrate some of the contributions made by black Americans in my home State of Oregon. Since Marcus Lopez, who sailed with Captain Robert Gray in 1788, become the first person of African descent to set foot in Oregon, a great many black Americans have helped shape the history of my State. Throughout this month, I will come to the floor to highlight some of their stories.

One important story in the history of the Pacific Northwest belongs to a black pioneer named George W. Bush. George Washington Bush, a veteran of the War of 1812, headed west on the Oregon Trail in 1844 hoping to leave the racism of Missouri behind him. A wealthy farmer, Bush purchased six wagons, packed up his friends and family, including his Irish wife, and settled in The Dalles. Upon arrival, Bush discovered that the racism he was trying to escape was, tragically, alive and well in the Oregon Territory.

While slavery was illegal in Oregon, my State shamefully tried to drive out blacks through the enactment of exclusion laws, including a disgraceful "lash law." The lash law required that a black person be whipped twice a year "until [they] shall quit the territory." As a result of this law, Bush was forced to move across the Columbia River to live under the more hospitable rule of the Hudson's Bay Company. Bush thrived as a farmer and rancher in the Puget Sound area, and his success attracted a large number of settlers to the Northwest. Because his prosperity helped spur the tremendous growth of settlements north of the Columbia, Bush, one of the first black Oregonians, is now credited by some historians for bringing the land north of the Columbia River, present-day Washington State, into the United States.

Bush might never have completed his journey to Oregon had it not been for one of the first Oregon Trail guides, a black man named Moses Harris. Harris spent years trapping in the Northwest, and was one of the explorers who christened Independence Rock in what is now the State of Wyoming. Harris was renowned for his knowledge of the region, and, on more than one occasion, saved lost or stranded wagon parties from certain death along the treacherous route to Oregon. He guided thousands to the Pacific Northwest, including the famous Whitman party, and did so until his death of cholera in 1849.

Without Moses Harris, and people like him, Oregon, as we know it, would not exist today.

Moses Harris and George Bush are only two early examples of the black men and women who changed the course of history in Oregon and in the United States. During the remainder of Black History Month, I will return to the floor to celebrate more Oregonians like Harris and Bush, whose contributions, while great, have not received the attention they deserve.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### MAJOR STEWART H. HOLMES

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to congratulate Major Stewart H. Holmes upon the completion of his career of service in the United States Marine Corps. Throughout his 22 years military career, Major Holmes served with distinction and dedication.

He joined the Marine Corps when he was 17 years of age and rose from private to major, serving in a wide variety of assignments along the way. He served as the Marine Corps Appropriations liaison to both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, and he has been a legislative fellow in my office. He has carried out his responsibilities with great ability and dedication.

His parents, Wilhelmina and Jacob Holmes, and his fellow Marines can be proud of his distinguished service. Major Holmes, and his wife Deborah, have made many sacrifices during his Marine career, and we appreciate their contribution of conscientious service to our country.

I am also pleased that Major Holmes will continue his work in my office as a Legislative Assistant with responsibilities for defense and military programs and issues. I look forward to having the continued benefit of his dependable counsel and assistance.●

##### TRIBUTE TO VICTOR SWENSON

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, for more than twenty-eight years it has been my pleasure to know and work with Victor Swenson in many efforts to promote the humanities at the State and national levels. On February 1, 2002, Victor retired as the Executive Director of the Vermont Council on the Humanities, a leadership role he has effectively filled since the Council's inception in 1974. Today, I rise to express my gratitude for his dedication and service to all Vermonters.

Every State has a humanities council, but few are as innovative, creative, and self-sufficient as the Vermont council on the Humanities. Early on, under Victor's stewardship, the Vermont Council determined that the first step in broadening Vermonters' participation in humanities programming was ensuring that all Vermonters were able to read. This undertaking,

creating a state in which every individual reads, participates in public affairs, and continues to learn throughout life, involves an enormous commitment. It is a self-imposed and ambitious challenge that the Council has taken on completely. The Council has distinguished itself as a national leader in promoting reading.

Victor's work with the Council has been so successful and has enjoyed such a long tenure that it would be impossible to discuss one without a complete mention of the other. Throughout this long association, Victor has held an unfading belief that the humanities can and must be used to improve life in meaningful ways. Victor believes rightly that all Vermonters benefit from any investment in the humanities, and the Council has been his vehicle for advancement. In January 1974, Victor set up office in Hyde Park, VT, with a budget of \$140,000. His first two grants were to the Crossroads Humanities Council in Rutland, VT, and to the Vermont Historical Society. As with those first two grants, the Council has used its position to challenge the people of Vermont to enrich their lives locally through the humanities. The Council has worked for the preservation of historic papers and documents, the creation of reading programs, initiatives to improve teachers' abilities in teaching the humanities and many, many other meaningful projects.

The importance of Victor's influence in Vermont for more than a quarter of a century cannot be overemphasized. I congratulate Victor on his retirement and I sincerely wish him the best of luck in whatever he may do next.●

##### THE TRIUMPH OF THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I salute the New England Patriots for their amazing win in Super Bowl XXXVI. We are so proud of our Patriots for bringing home this championship and for the manner in which they achieved it: through determination, class and teamwork. Some followers of the Pats through their startling season have deemed New England a team of destiny. I agree with that characterization if one defines team of destiny as a collection of individuals who worked together as an efficient, loyal combination in the face of adversity and doubt.

From Fort Kent, ME, to Waterbury, CT, from Williamstown to Wellfleet, New England sports fans have hungered for a sports title since 1986. Few would have guessed that it would be the Patriots who would end this drought by bringing home their first championship. Although blessed with four decades of star players such as Gino Cappelletti, Jim Nance and Babe Parilli in the 1960s; Sam (Bam) Cunningham, Russ Francis, and Jim Plunkett in the 1970s; John Hannah, Mike Haynes, and Stanley Morgan in